Headquarters, Marine Corps
Military Awards Brief
MMMA
Capt. Tootle
Mar 2000

HQMC Military Awards Branch Mission Statement

The Mission of the HQMC Military Awards Branch is to serve as the principle advisor to the Commandant on all matters pertaining to Awards, direct policy and procedures in regard to the Military Awards Program in the Marine Corps and establish an Awards Board to review and make recommendation on all current awards. **SecNavInst**

Endstate

Afford the *entire* Marine Corps access to an awards processing system that can be utilized by all levels (originator-company-battalion-regiment-division- force- HQMC) for the processing, submission and storage of all personal and Unit award recommendations.

An internet-based system was proposed, developed, tested, and is now ready for introduction as the standard for all award submissions.

Marine-Corps wide Training for the new System will begin in April, 2000.

What was developed

- An application was needed that utilizes internet technology (can be accessed by anyone in the Marine Corps/Navy that has Internet access) for originating, forwarding, processing and storing all personal awards. There is also a need for the award to be approved, printed, and awarded at the appropriate delegated awarding authority.
- The System must be password protected (privacy act info such as SSN) with this headquarters providing access to those Members that require

Value Added

- There is a distinct value added to the new process that will become readily apparent once it is instituted:
  - Awards are forwarded via Email: faster and more efficient way to get endorsement/decision on award recommendations.
  - Reduction in the amount of paper used in the processing of awards.
  - Savings in cost of FedEx and overnight delivery of award recommendations.
  - Reduced storage space for hard copy awards...can be saved and filed on disc or CD-ROM
  - Easier way to process and track the status of awards. Real Time Data.

Other Awards Issues

09/03/16

- Specific Achievement Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medals
  - Awarding authority is BnCmdr with Special Courts-Martial Convening Authority.
  - ALMAR 104/95: Increased the number a Commander can approve from 1:25 to 2:25 of their T/O.
  - Awarded for Specific Achievement (IMPACT) **NOT** End of Tour.
  - Specific Achievement is defined as “a single act or action that warrants recognition” or “superior performance on a specific task generally not to exceed 6 months.”

Other Awards Issues (cont)

09/03/16

- Policy Considerations: MCO 1650.19H Encl (2) para 7 d and e
  - "Commanders in the chain of command may recommend a lower award than that originally recommended, but such commands may not approve a lower award and stop further transmittal of the recommendation."
  - Additionally, "Awarding authorities shall forward the original, signed OPNAV 1650 and a copy of the signed citation/certificate to the CMC (MMMA) for recording and inclusion into the Marine's OMPF.

Other Awards Issues (cont)

09/03/16

- Combat Action Ribbon
  - Once the SecNav opens a window for the CAR, submit an OPNAV 1650/3 award recommendation to the awarding authority just as any other personal award.
  - For recommendations in which no window was opened, forward to CMC (MMMA) for action.

Changes to the MCO 1650.19H

09/03/16

- **Due to the substantial changes to award processing and policy changes, the MCO 1650.19 will be revised and republished this summer**
- **The MCO, as well as the SecNavInst 1650 and the NAVMC 2922, Unit Awards Manual, are available for download on the Internet site**

Training

- **Since this is a new system and there are major modifications, the HQMC Awards Board will be conducting on-site training at the following commands:**
  - **4-7 April: HQMC**
  - **11-12 April: MCCDC/Quantico/HMX-1**
  - **14 April: MarForLant**
  - **17-19 April: Camp Lejeune/MCAS Cherry Point**
  - **21 April: MCRD/ERR Parris Island**
  - **26 April: MarForRes**
  - **8-10 May: MCB Okinawa**
  - **12 May: MCAS Iwakuni**
  - **15 May: MarForPac**
  - **5-6 Jun: MCB Camp Pendleton**
  - **7 Jun: Miramar**
  - **8 Jun: MCRD-WRR San Diego**
  - **9 Jun: 29 Palms**

Conclusion

- The HQMC Awards Branch, as the Commandants representative on all matters pertaining to military awards, has a responsibility to maintain the most up-to-date and user friendly process by which awards are processed.
- The establishment of the electronic Awards Processing System will allow the Marines and Fleet Commanders the opportunity to better process their awards and enable the HQMC

  Awards Branch the ability to better support them.